

Motor Accidents.

134. MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a bus belonging to the Lakshmi Vilsam Motor Bus Company, on its way from Nagercoil with passengers, while descending a slope at the 11th mile near Neyyattinkara ran down a precipice since the brakes did not act and caused the immediate death of several passengers and injuries to all;

(b) (i) the number of people who lost their lives while travelling in motor buses since 1990;

(ii) the number of people who lost their lives on account of motor accidents since 1990;

(iii) the number of people who received injuries on account of motor accidents since 1990, as passengers in motor buses, on account of accidents due to defects in the buses and otherwise; and

(c) (i) the measures, if any, adopted or ordered to be adopted for the necessary safety of life on all descriptions of motor buses; and

(ii) whether the Government propose to appoint as Traffic Inspectors, duly qualified Engineers with the requisite practical experience in Motor Engineering so that loss of life consequent on accidents due to defects in motor buses may be avoided?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) (i) Nine.

(ii) Thirty-three.

(iii) One hundred and forty-five.

(c) (i) The buses are subject to six-monthly examination by an approved examiner of motor buses and, unless so examined, no bus is permitted to ply. The buses are also subjected to frequent checkings by Police officers with a view to prevent over-loading and rash driving. Besides, the carrying and seating capacities of buses are fixed with due regard to the safety and convenience of passengers.

(ii) Mr. T. Thanu Pillai and Mr. Herman Lopez have been appointed Additional Traffic Inspectors. They have sufficient experience and knowledge of motor mechanism.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): With reference to part (a) of the question, the answer is in the affirmative. May I know from the member the number of passengers who died at the spot?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Seven.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): The number of passengers who sustained injuries?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Nine.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): The total number of passengers who travelled in the bus?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have no information.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know from the member whether the Government ascertained why the brakes did not act?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The brakes must have been out of order.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know from the member how a bus whose brakes were out of order—brakes which are the fundamental checks to avoid accidents—was allowed to run?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It must have got out of order after it was allowed to run.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): When was the bus examined?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have no information.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): The answer to part (a) is: "The answer is in the affirmative". This is a most important matter and the Government ought to have collected the information.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Government collected information on the points raised by the member originally, but not on the further points now brought forward.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): My question is why the brakes did not act?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have answered that.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): In the answer, the Government admit that the brakes did not act.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Might not have. Perhaps the man did not apply them. It might have been both ways.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know from the member who examined the bus?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have no information.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know from the member the date on which the accident took place?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): In 1090.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): I want to know the date on which the accident took place.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I will ascertain that.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): With reference to part (c), the answer is that the buses are subject to six-monthly examinations. May I ask the Government whether they think that an examination once in six months is sufficient?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is what obtains now. If the member considers that it is insufficient, he might raise that point.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): I rise to a point of order, Sir. I am asking for information. I am not supplying information.

PRESIDENT: You are asking for an expression of opinion, not for information.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Are the Government aware that the examination of buses in such a long period of six months is not sufficient?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The point that the examination of buses is insufficient has never been brought to the notice of the Government.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I refer the member to the Police Commissioner's statement at page 72 of the Council Proceedings: "Thus the examination of the buses are unsatisfactory".

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): "Thus" means what? I would like the member to read the whole of it.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): "The present system of conducting the six-monthly examination... thus the examination is unsatisfactory".

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not know what exactly the member wants me to say.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Are the Government aware that this examination at long intervals of once in six months is not sufficient?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There are periodical examinations by the police officers also.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Who are the police officers who examined the buses?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): At present, all the officers from the Commissioner downwards examine them.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know from the member whether these officers have at least a smattering knowledge of motor mechanism?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): With reference to (c) (ii), may I know from the member the qualifications of these two additional Traffic Inspectors?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have got a list of the qualifications here.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Have they sufficient knowledge of mechanism and engineering? Have they any qualification whatsoever?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They have got sufficient qualifications. I will read from the list their qualifications:

Mr. Herman Lopez—*General qualification*: Passed School Final; *Technical qualifications*: Passed the Mechanical Engineering from the Mysore Government School of Engineering, Bangalore; entitled to diploma; has completed a course of two and a half years in the institute; one year's practical training in the South Indian Railway as Apprentice Signal Inspector; he has specialised in heat engineering and motor engineering which forms a part of the course; *Previous experience*: he was in charge of the engines in the Nagercoil Distillery for three months in 1925 as Excise Inspector.

Mr. T. Thanu Pillai—*General qualifications*: Intermediate Examination of the Madras University; *Technical qualifications*: he has practical experience in motor and electrical engineering for three years in a few well-known firms in Madras; he was employed in the Crompton Engineering Company, Madras, from September 1922 until August 1923. He holds very good certificates.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Am I to understand that he has no qualifications except practical experience?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Does he refer to Mr. Lopez?

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Yes.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): He has had practical experience of motor cars and motor mechanism and theoretical knowledge.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know from the member whether it was the intention of the Government when they appointed these Inspectors that they will appoint duly qualified Inspectors?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They have appointed duly qualified Inspectors.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Were there not applications from men who were duly qualified?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): These men also are duly qualified.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Are the Government aware that the new 'Traffic Inspectors' posts were created because the then system of examining motor buses was found to be unsatisfactory?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It may be so.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Are there men from the Engineering Department then examining the motor buses?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They are available for inspection of motor buses at all times.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know whether these Inspectors are now examining the motor buses?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They are under training.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Are they under training for inspecting motor buses?

PRESIDENT: Mr. Piraviperumal Pillai, I think you have long transcended the limit of putting supplementary questions. You have crossed that limit and you are now cross-examining.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Am I to understand that you are saying that there is a time-limit to put supplementary questions?

PRESIDENT: No time-limit. A supplementary question is ordinarily put in order to elicit information to supplement the main subject. It is not a series of cross-examination.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I submit one word, Sir? I wanted information on a matter which caused death to seven persons.

PRESIDENT: Twelve years ago.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Day before yesterday also, there was an accident which caused the death of several persons. It is to show that there is danger of people being injured when duly qualified persons are not appointed for examining motor buses that I asked the supplementary questions. If the ruling of the President is that I should not ask supplementary questions, I will not do so.

PRESIDENT: For the supplementary questions you put, you received the answer that the Government are satisfied that the men who were appointed are duly qualified.

Taxes and Tolls collected by the Trivandrum Municipality.

135. **MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI** (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the amount received by the Trivandrum Municipality from each of the Municipal toll-gates during each of the years 1099, 1100 and 1101;

(b) the uses to which the amount referred to in part (a) have been put;

(c) the amounts collected by the Trivandrum Municipality under vehicle tax from each class of the different vehicles taxed during each of the years 1099, 1100 and 1101;

(d) the uses to which the amounts referred to in part (c) have been put;

(e) the total amount of tax collected by the Trivandrum Municipality from merchants in the shape of taxes for the sale of candles, matchsticks, kerosene oil, etc., and profession tax during each of the years 1099, 1100 and 1101;

(f) the special benefits done by the Trivandrum Municipality to the mercantile community during each of the years 1099, 1100 and 1101; and

(g) the uses to which the amount referred to in part (e) have been put?